

Top 10 Health and Safety Risks in Logging Operations

Highway travel is top health and safety risk

As identified by workers, supervisors, and employers in the Ontario logging industry through a Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development-facilitated risk assessment workshop in partnership with Workplace Safety North.



- 1. Highway travel**
(dangerous conditions, fatigue, weather, road and vehicle maintenance)



- 6. Fatigue-induced incidents**



- 2. Conventional harvesting**
(struck by overhead tree or branch)



- 7. Substance use: Under the influence of alcohol, prescription or other drugs**



- 3. Off-road driving during work activities** (including haul drivers)



- 8. Lack of experience, training, and risk perception**



- 4. Distracted while driving to and from work sites** (not including hauling)



- 9. Caught in or struck by equipment**



- 5. Inadequate or improper lockout while working on energized equipment**



- 10. Lack of enforcement** (including contractors)

For more information, please contact your WSN Health and Safety Specialist or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca

Approved Logging Health and Safety Training

Mechanical Harvesting Equipment Operator-Forestry Pit and Road Construction Equipment Operator

(Disponible en français)

Successful completion of the operator's classroom course for mechanical harvesting and forestry pit and road construction equipment meets the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (Ministry) classroom training requirements of the Mechanical Harvesting Equipment Operator and Forestry Pit and Road Construction Equipment Operator (MHEO-FPRCEO) certification program. This course can also be completed online.

Introduction to Professional Chainsaw Operation

(Disponible en français)

The course was developed and is under the auspices of Workplace Safety North and sanctioned by the Ministry as the approved program for pre-employment classroom training for chainsaw operators.

Competent Supervisor Training

(Disponible en français)

Health and safety awareness training is now law for every worker and supervisor in Ontario. WSN Competent Supervisor training focuses on the health and safety rights and responsibilities of workers, supervisors, and employers; and gives supervisors the tools to integrate health and safety into their everyday role. Supervisors are responsible for helping set and maintain a strong safety culture.

About Workplace Safety North

Your local health and safety partner

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario.

Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN provides province-wide government approved workplace health and safety training and services for the forest products and mining industries.

With health and safety specialists located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years.

WSN is a leading provider of health and safety services, and businesses and communities call upon WSN for expert advice and training. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca.



Scan the QR code to learn more about logging industry risk-based research, or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca/industries/forest-products

The internal responsibility system (IRS) is a system where everyone shares responsibility for occupational health and safety that is appropriate to their role and function within the workplace.

All workplace parties — including employers, managers, supervisors, and workers — need to do their part to raise awareness of risks, and follow and promote safety procedures to help make workplaces safer.